

November 2004

**In this issue:** Director's Desk — Events Calendar  
People News — New Employees — Family News and Photos  
Writer's Block — FYI

## From the Director's Desk

GSL has a Director!

Those are welcome words for our laboratory! We've been waiting almost two and a half years to say them. And I want to tell you, it's a great honor *and* privilege for me to be selected to serve in that role for you. I look forward to many great years of working for one of the finest organizations in the Corps.

Happy New Year! Fiscal Year, that is. FY04 was another great year for GSL. We executed about \$69M in research, very similar to FY03. This year is shaping up to be a good one also, so it looks like we're in healthy financial shape going into the new fiscal year, thanks to your hard work and dedication.

Better than that was what we actually accomplished for the \$69M. For instance, we developed solutions for the warfighter for overhead cover protection against rocket and mortar rounds to help protect our soldiers and civilians from insurgent attacks in Iraq. We completed the first edition of the Joint Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection (JAT/FP) software that is being deployed DoD-wide to help commanders design and budget for force protection measures for their installations. We successfully demonstrated the first phase of the Joint Rapid Airfield Construction (JRAC) demonstration project at Fort Bragg this summer by building two airfield aprons for C-130 traffic within 75 hours. We worked with CHL to demonstrate the efficacy of rapid flood-fighting technologies in a very high-profile project with the USACE Headquarters this past summer. We successfully competed at the highest levels in the Army for two new Science and Technology Objectives (STOs) in our Research, Demonstration, Testing, and Evaluation (RDTE) program, comprising 100% of ERDC's new STOs.

We did all of this while maintaining one of the lowest overhead rates in ERDC, answering over 3,000 Requests for Information through the TeleEngineering Operations Center, deploying 13 Team Members to Iraq, Afghanistan, the Transatlantic Center, and Florida (Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne assistance), and working on more than 400 individual projects for over 100 individual customers.

Wow. What a year! Congratulations, and thanks! You deserve it.

*David Pittman*  
Director, GSL



## Events Calendar

---

Nov 4 – GSL Self-Development Seminar, “Broad Agency Announcements (BAAs),” presented by Sally East and Mike Lee, Contracting Division; GSL Main Conference Room, 10 am

Nov 10 – Native American Heritage Program, 10 am, Vicksburg District, Clay Street

Nov 12 – Final day of CFC local campaign; [Julie Baker](#), x3289; <http://www.opm.gov/cfc>

Nov 15 – Deadline for submission of abstracts, 13th International Conference of Women Engineers and Scientists, Aug 28-31, 2005, Seoul, Korea, [www.icwes13.org](http://www.icwes13.org)

Nov 29-Dec 2 – 24th Army Science Conference, Orlando, FL; <http://www.asc2004.com>

Dec 14-16 – GSL hosts the ERDC PMB/BOD

Jan 9-13, '05 – Transportation Research Board (TRB), 84<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

Mar 29-30, '05 – 14th Sesquiannual Geospatial Information Technical Exchange Meeting, Springfield, VA; [Ray Caputo](#), 703-428-6784

## GSL Softball Champs!

You heard, didn't you? GSL's team won the WES Engineer Day '04 softball tournament! They defeated the defending EL champs (twice) to capture a victory. Their magnificent trophy is on display in the lobby of the Casagrande Building (and is shown in the photo on the next page).



[Back row, L-R] **Ginger Berney, Ernest Berney, Jim Shoenberger (deceased), John Lott, Ryan North, John Coomes, Stephen McDevitt, Mike Coomes, Matt Newman, Tracey Waddell, Katie Fairley, and Jill Jackson**

[Front row, L-R] **Michelle Shoenberger, Wipawi Vanadit-Ellis, Janet Simms, Lora Johnson, Bo Newton, and Colin Leach**



We convinced some of the GSL Softball Champs to escape their desks—just long enough to pose with the Team's trophy and game ball signed by the Team. Pictured (L-R) are Lora Johnson, John Lott, Jill Jackson, Wipawi Vanadit-Ellis, Ryan North, Colin Leach, Steven McDevitt, Janet Simms, Mike Coomes, and Katie Fairley.

If you missed the GSL softball action at Engineer Day '04, **Mike Coomes** has you covered! His experiences during the tournament are related in the story below. Enjoy!

By the time you read this story all of my aches and pains have gone away, the championship trophy is safe and secure in the display case, and everything is back to normal. The last time we were the WES champions was during Ronald Reagan's second term as president. Wipawi Vanadit-Ellis and I were the only two on this year's team that played on that team in the late '80s. In defense of Wipawi, she is younger than me. This championship was very special to us. The best word to use to describe our team is "dynamic." We played three games this year on our way to the championship. We twice beat our nemesis, EL, who waxed us last year 30-3. This year in two games we outscored them 28-12. We also soundly defeated our cross-station rival, ITL, 13-6. We all are aware that, in the sporting world, sometimes championship teams have to deal with a lot of controversy. We were accused of having "ringers" on the team by some players from the "losing" teams, but we were able to deal with that criticism and calmly replied that everyone on our team was either a GSL employee or family member. I think a lot of their comments came from total frustration and humiliation and the realization that GSL actually had the best team that day. Our total run production (41) was over twice as many runs as we allowed (18). We committed a total of only four errors in all three games. In preparing this story, Janet Simms, team manager, wanted me to mention several things that really contributed to our success on the field. One of the keys to our victories was how well our women played. They were awesome both with their gloves and with their bats. Of course, we could not have done it without the support of our loyal fans, who battled the heat to cheer us on to victory. Other contributing factors to our success on the field were a combination of lots of base hits, timely home runs with runners on-base, very few fielding errors, and capitalizing on the opposing team's errors.

(continued on **page 16**)



## GSL People News



**Billy Neeley** (GM-C) and Carol Tasillo, Pittsburgh District, were among those honored by the Directors of the Expanded Shale, Clay and Slate Institute at an awards dinner in May. The Corps' Braddock Gated Dam Project was selected by the Institute to receive the 2004 Frank G. Erskine Award for outstanding contributions in the use of lightweight aggregate.

*Tasillo and Neeley are pictured at left*

**Concrete and Materials Branch** celebrated team members' awards on May 21. Shown receiving their awards are (L-R, below) *Rudy Andreatta* (Achievement Medal for Civilian Service), *Sherrie Johnson* (Commander's Award for Civilian Service), *Billy Neeley* (Army Superior Civilian Service), and *Dan Wilson* (Commander's Award for Civilian Service).



*Photos courtesy of Chuck Weiss*

As pictured below, **TEOC awards** were presented on Jun 1 to *Mary Gaines* (Commander's Award for Civilian Service), MAJ Jeff Crockett (ERDC Outstanding Team Effort), and Rhonda Taylor (Length of Service)



*Photos courtesy of Jeff Powell*



## **GSL People News** (Continued)

In September, Chuck Weiss and Rudy Andreatta (GM-C) traveled to the Czech Republic in support of GSL's concrete work with the U.S. Army ECBC (Edgewood Chemical Biological Center).

They provided consulting support to ECBC contractors who are producing field test concrete based on a Corps formulation of standardized airfield pavement concrete.

Chuck and Rudy had time for only a few photo ops. At right, Chuck is pictured near the caves along the River Svatka, a site known for the Brno dragon legend.



Chuck Weiss (GM-C)



More on the Brno dragon at <http://www.brno.cz>

### ***About our deployed team members...***

An impressive number of GSL heroes were recognized at the October GSL Town Hall meeting for their recent service in deployment:

- COL Eddie Chesnut
- MSG Ray Castellane
- MAJ Jim MacKenzie
- Julie Kelley
- Webb Mason
- Carlos Gonzalez
- Reed Freeman
- Larry Lynch
- Edith Caples
- Alma Epps
- Rodney Walters
- Belton Dent
- Sharon McBride



Reed Freeman's experiences in Afghanistan during Jan-May 2004 were featured in the [\*ERDC Bulletin\*](#) (Oct 29, page 12)



Larry Lynch in Iraq

These team members are currently deployed. Let's support them as much as possible!

**Larry Lynch – Iraq**

**Edith Caples – TAC**

**Gary Anderton – Afghanistan**

**Rodney Walters – Hurricane Ivan Relief**

**Andrew Harrison – Afghanistan**

## GSL People News (Continued)

### ***Congratulations to...***

**Clay Blount** (GS-V), whose book *Birthright* (NewSouth Books) is available from online retailers and is expected to be on the shelves of local bookstores in early November. The book takes place in Vicksburg during the Civil War and involves two brothers and a murder-for-hire scheme. Clay related his thoughts on being ERDC's most recent novelist in the [Sep 17 ERDC Bulletin](#).



**Jeb Tingle** (GM-A), who was recognized as an ***ERDC Hero*** at the Oct 19 Town Hall meeting with LTG Carl Strock, the newly appointed Chief of Engineers. Cited accomplishments were his leadership in serving as a program manager for the Army's Battlespace Gap Definition and Defeat program, in executing an Air Force research program to develop methods and materials for expedient bomb crater repair, and in leading a project to develop materials and methods for rapidly providing dust control in the theater of operations for the Marine Corps.

*For info on other GSL heroes, who were recognized at GSL's Oct 7 Town Hall Meeting, see page 5. Photos from the Town Hall Meeting and the Birthday Party are shown on pages 13 and 14 and are posted on the [GSL Intranet](#).*

.....

### **GSL celebrated its FY04 achievements and looked to the future at the Oct 7 Town Hall Meeting and 4th Birthday Party**

If you were unable to attend, check out these sources:

- The PowerPoint presentation shown at the GSL Town Hall meeting is available (in PDF format, 9.5 MB) on the [GSL Intranet](#).
- Group photos taken at the Town Hall meeting are shown on page 13 **and** can be viewed in larger format on the [GSL Intranet](#).
- Photos of the fun at GSL's 4th Birthday Party are on page 14 and the [GSL Intranet](#).
- A DVD featuring a video of the entire Town Hall meeting **and** Don Nelson's fabulous "GSL '04 Scrapbook" video will be available soon. Contact [Gwen Foster](#) (x2207) or [Jessica Ruff](#) (x2587) for info.



## **GSL New Employees**

### ***Shannon Marshall***

Contractor – Alpha Data Corporation  
Impact and Explosion Effects Branch  
Ext. 2635

Prior to joining the GSL team in June, Shannon worked in CHL's Management Support Group. She has obtained partial college credit toward a degree in business administration, with a minor in computer science.



### ***Chris Cummins***

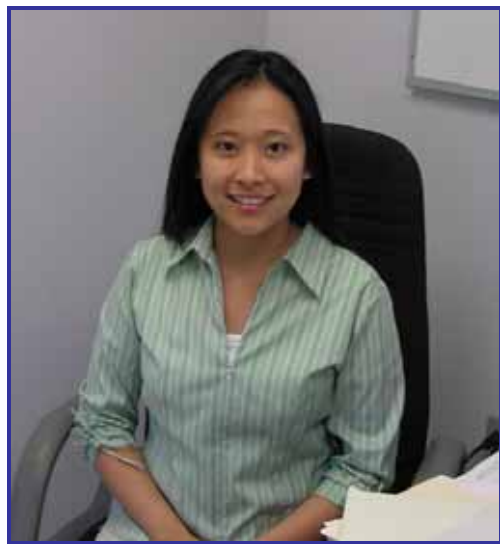
Operations Research Analyst – Mobility Systems Branch  
Ext. 3989

Chris holds a bachelor's degree from Murray State University and a master's from Mississippi State. His interests outside the office are varied and include artificial intelligence, robotics, electronics, Esperanto, radio-controlled planes, 3D animation and viewing, building props and costumes, and real-time strategy games.

### ***Lulu Edwards***

Research General Engineer  
Airfields and Pavements Branch, Ext. 3644

Earlier this year, Lulu earned a master's degree in biomedical engineering from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She also holds a bachelor's in biological engineering, which she received from Mississippi State University. Since August, she has been working with the Battlespace Gap Definition and Defeat (GAPS) project and the ground-penetrating radar project. Lulu is a native of Starkville, MS, and her husband, Micael Edwards, works in GS-M.



## **GSL New Employees** (Continued)



### ***Haley Parsons***

Research General Engineer  
Airfields and Pavements Branch, Ext. 3644

Haley joined the GSL team in late August. She comes to her position with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering earned from Mississippi State University. She is a native of Vicksburg.

### ***Vernon Moore***

Research Civil Engineer  
Airfields and Pavements Branch, Ext. 2385

Vernon is a recent graduate of Mississippi State University, having received an M.S. degree in August. He is a native of Slidell, LA, and spends most of his free time outside, either hunting or fishing.



### ***Sean Taylor***

Contractor – Mechanical Engineer  
Structural Engineering Branch, Ext. 4213

Sean, a Brandon native, comes to GSL with a B.S. from Mississippi State University and experience gained as kiln supervisor for Tri-State Brick and Tile. Favorite pastimes include running, lifting weights, playing football, watching movies, and hanging out with friends.





## **GSL New Employees** (Continued)

### ***Mike Crawford***

Civil Engineering Technician  
Airfields and Pavements Branch, Ext. 3857

In early October, Mike became an ERDC Government employee, having already been a part of the GSL family as a contractor. In his new position, he is responsible for railroad track inspections and associated reports. Mike is currently pursuing a degree in architectural drafting and design technology. He and his wife, Katherine, have two children.



### ***John Lott***

Geo Information Specialist  
Airfields and Pavements Branch, Ext. 2965

John joined the ERDC Government team in early October, bringing to the position his experience gained as a GSL contractor. He holds an associate's degree in applied science from Hinds Community College and is involved with work for both PCASE and JRAC. John and his wife, Wanda, live in Vicksburg.

### ***Quint Mason***

Civil Engineering Technician  
Airfields and Pavements Branch, Ext. 3379

Quint came onboard in early October, as a contractor-turned-Government employee. He is a Warren Central graduate and is currently attending Hinds Community College, studying computer-aided drafting. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and horseback-riding. He and his wife, Lea Ann, are eagerly awaiting the birth of their first child, due in about 6 months.



## **GSL New Employees** (Continued)



**SFC Roy Pipkin**  
TEOC, Ext. 4116

SFC Pipkin began his current assignment in mid-August. He serves as the Communications System NCOIC of the ERDC Emergency Operations Center and TeleEngineering Operations Center, in support of the ongoing Corps missions of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

**MAJ Michael Walz**  
German Exchange Officer  
Structural Engineering Branch, Ext. 2121

MAJ Walz, a civil engineer, plans to serve in his ERDC position for 1 year, working primarily with projects involving force protection. He is a native of Donaueschingen, Germany, and has a degree from the German Armed Forces University in Munich.



**MAJ Bob Sheldon**  
British Liaison Officer, JAT-FP, Ext. 3852



MAJ Sheldon is on his second assignment to ERDC. About 3 years ago, he worked with GSL's Structural Mechanics Branch on protective structures. He is a professional civil engineer with a bachelor's in civil engineering and a master's in Weapons Effects in Structures, earned from the Royal Military College of Science in the United Kingdom. He joined the British Army in 1972 and was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1973. He has been deployed around the world, including Germany, Denmark, the Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Norway, Kenya, Israel, and Australia, and has been on operations in Northern Ireland, with Desert Storm, and in Iraq. Recently, he has worked as the SO2 Fortifications in the UK MoD research organization Dstl. He is married to Diana, and they have three daughters. His interests include reading, most ball games, military history, and church-based activities.

### ***In memory...***

**Jim Shoenberger** (GM-A) died unexpectedly on Oct 11 at age 50. He was a native of Pennsylvania, was stationed in 1976 as an Army engineer at WES, and then began his career with GL.

We extend our deepest condolences to his wife, Tere Demoss (EL), and their children, Michelle and Matthew. Jim will be remembered for his loving devotion to his family and his strong spirit of volunteerism in many youth and community activities. To his ERDC coworkers, he was a trusted, hard-working, and knowledgeable professional. He will be greatly missed by all.



### **Retirements**

- Benny Carnes (GM-I), Jun 30
- MAJ Jim MacKenzie (GV-JF), Aug 10
- LTC Chris Cottrell (GV-JF), Aug 25
- Tommy Ray (GM-I), Sep 3
- Ed Jackson (GV-A), Jan 3

### **Departures**

- Thuan Nguyen (GM-A), May 28
- Holly Goldman Porter (SvEB), May 29
- Josh Blackmon (GS-S), May 30
- Rodney Leist (GS-S), Jun 11
- Troy Brosten (GS-G), Jul 24
- Audrey Stewart (GM-A), Aug 22
- John Weathersby (GS-V), Aug 30
- John Fitzgerald (GS-V), Sep 13
- David Couch (GM-I), Sep 24
- Larry Allen (GV-T), Oct 3



**MacKenzie** (L-center and below) and his family celebrated his Aug 10 retirement along with his GSL and ERDC friends



Shown at left, **Chris Cottrell** (JAT/FP) retired from the Army on Aug 25

### ***Our sympathies are extended to friends and family members in the recent loss of these individuals...***

- Gene Hale, May 15 – U.S. Army Maj. Gen. (ret.) and former Chief, Soils Research Center, GL
- James Baker, Jun 7 – father-in-law of Julia Baker (GS)
- Benton Groves, Jul 5 – retired GL Civil Engineering Technician, age 88
- Rachel Smith, Aug 7 – wife of the late Lawson Smith, former GSL employee
- Mary Cooper, Aug 27 – wife of GSL retiree Stafford Cooper
- Faye Ellison, Oct 28 – wife of GSL retiree Dave Ellison; mother-in-law of Marie Ellison (GM-M); and grandmother of Rob Ellison (GM-M)
- Mary Butler, Oct 30 – mother of Dwain Butler (GS-R Contractor)



## GSL Family News



### Precious babies...

- **Wesley Edward Myers**, first grandchild of Milton and Bettye Myers, Mar 23
- **Emily Grace Humphreys**, Mar 29, granddaughter of Tricia Oldham (GM-B)
- **Daniel Joseph Llopis**, son of José (GS-G) and Margie (ERDC EEO)
- **Alexander Hall Tingle**, son of Jeb (GM-A) and wife Shelley; grandson of Robert Hall (GS)
- **Jana-Len**, daughter of MAJ Leon Jones (TEOC) and his wife, Nimfa – born Jul 8
- **Isabella Victoria**, born Jul 8, daughter of Enrique Matheu (GS-E) and Yasmin Seda-Sanabria (GS-S/GV-T), and little sister to Gabriela Carolina
- **Joshua Terrell Craig**, born Jul 12 – making Delores Flaggs (GS-E) a grandma for the sixth time!
- **Christina Marie and Emma Linn**, twin daughters of Eileen Glynn (GS-E) and Scott Waisner (EL)
- **Cody James North**, born Aug 11 – son of Ryan (GS-G) and Jessica North; his big brother is Caleb
- **Katherine Phillips Myers**, granddaughter of Milton Myers (GV-Z), born Aug 18 in Ruston, LA
- **Michael Brian Green**, son of Brian (GM-C) and Sally, welcomed on Aug 27 by big sis Sydney



Milton cherishes his first grandchild, baby Wes, son of Bill and Brittany Myers, who live in South Carolina



Tricia's granddaughter Claire, age 7, holds newborn sis, Emily Grace Humphreys



Six-month-old Daniel greets José's coworkers on Oct 28



Alex Hall Tingle at 5 months



Yasmin and Enrique's GSL friends helped them prepare



The Waisner twins, born Jul 27, each weighed 5 lbs-plus; their big brother Jacob is lots of help



Milton holds Kate, newborn daughter of Bob and Jill Myers – she's the first girl in the Myers' direct family in four generations!



(L) Sally and Brian Green at baby shower/potluck hosted by their CMB friends on Aug 12; (above) Michael poses for Mom on Sep 29

## GSL Family Photos



**Robert Hall** [left] clowned around in the dunking booth—to add to the fun of Engineer Day!

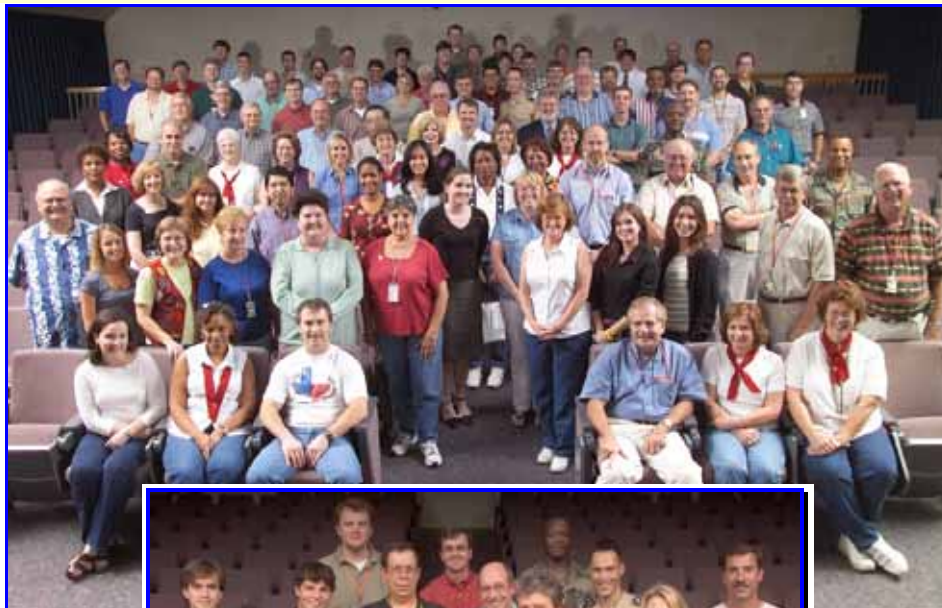


Dorothy Staer (GM) hosted a **GSL Ladies' Night** on Jun 17—lots of fun, food, and foolishness!



Cheri Loden [left] (Contractor) was one of many GSL friends who helped **Gilda Miller** [right] (ITL Editor for GSL) celebrate her retirement from ERDC on Jul 1

## GSL Town Hall Photos, “Large Group” (top) and “GSL Class of '04”



Larger format photos can be viewed on the [GSL Intranet](#)



## GSL Town Hall and Birthday Party Photos

Other party photos available on [GSL Intranet](#)

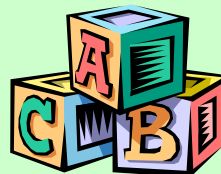


Photographs courtesy of Bob Larson, GS-G



## Writer's Block?

*Grammar and language tips for better writing*




Here are some actions you can take to avoid the four basic writing errors:

- Make sure subjects and verbs agree.
- Take care with statistics.
- Don't take clichés for granted.
- Rescue dangles from self-destruction.

Source: *The Editorial Eye*, June 2004, EEI Press, Alexandria, VA; [www.eeicomunications.com/eye](http://www.eeicomunications.com/eye).

### FYI...

- **CFC update** from Julia Baker, GSL's CFC Chairperson — info as of Oct 28, Week 3: The "very generous GSLers have donated or pledged a total of \$41,968. Our percentage of givers, based on Full Time Permanent and Active Duty Military only, is at 35%. Last year we gave just over \$47,000 and our percentage was 46.74." Julia reminds us that the active campaign will end on Nov 12. So, see your CFC Keyworker soon if you haven't already had an opportunity to donate.
  - **GSL Tools** has lots to offer to make your workday easier, including software to create PDF files, access GSL shared files, compress PPT files, maintain your employee profile, and track publications and your property. 
  - **GSL Web sites** are being reviewed and updated. Remember to bookmark the homepages:
    - ❑ **Internet** (public access) <http://gsl.erdc.usace.army.mil/gsl.html>
    - ❑ **Extranet** (DoD-restricted access) <https://gsl-mil.erdc.usace.army.mil/>
    - ❑ **Intranet** (ERDC access) <https://gslinfo.erdc.usace.army.mil/>
- Take a look at these sites periodically and send comments to [Jessica Ruff](#) if you see information that needs updating or have suggestions on improving GSL's online image.
- In the Gulf Region Division (GRD), there are currently 57 vacant positions in Afghanistan and 177 positions in Iraq. For more info, go to **CPOL's Vacancy Announcement Web site**, highlight Employment, click on Army's Vacancy Announcements, highlight Afghanistan or Iraq, and then click on "Get Results." This will bring up all the positions currently under recruitment. For details, click on the job(s) for which you are interested in applying.
  - A **GRD Orientation Guide** is available. According to COL Rowan, this is a "handy reference...to answer many questions that people have about performing duties in these combat zones."
  - **Guide to Retirement** is now available on the ABC-C Web site.
  - **New** (Jul 04) **version** of **Guide for Preparing Technical Information Reports** is online.

## **We Are the Champions**, by Mike Coomes (Concluded)

During the middle innings of the last game the score was tied 3-3. EL was actually playing better than they did in Game 1. But the wind was knocked out of their sails when Stephen McDevitt hit a grand slam homerun that sealed the victory and championship for GSL. Knowing that victory was just a few innings away, I commented to one of our players that it had been a long, long time since we had won the championship and it really was a great feeling. He replied that he was glad that the team could win the championship for me because he knew I was in the “twilight of my career” and that I probably would not be able to play much longer. Enough already!! I told him I appreciated the comments but I hope to be back next year playing along side the defending champions. This championship was extra special to me because over four years ago I had bypass surgery that saved my life. Some of our fans told me that they were amazed at how I was able to pitch, get base hits and run the bases. I think there is a misconception that heart patients are invalids or are limited in their activities after surgery. Not true. I am actually healthier now than I have been in years.

Here are some highlights, stats, and comments from the three games:

### **HOMERUN LEADERS**

Bo Newton/Ernest Berney/Stephen McDevitt (GrandSlam)

### **DOUBLES LEADER**

Janet Simms (Team Manager)

ERRORS, 4 (names withheld)

PITCHING: ERA, 5.10 Record: (3-0)

### **OUTSTANDING PLAYS**

Game 3: Tracey Waddell, 3B, caught a line drive shot that bent her glove back, creating a look of shock on her face but saved a potential rally by EL.

Game 2: Mike Coomes, P, made three putouts in one inning, which is nothing special. As the sports announcer would say “a record held by many” but the three consecutive outs came with runners on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> and prevented EL from ever reaching 3<sup>rd</sup> base.

Game 3: Stephen McDevitt, LF/SS, hit a grand slam home run in the Championship game that broke a 3-3 tie and contributed to the victory.

Game 3: Ryan North, our “Goliath” at 1B, scooped back-to-back shots down the line that killed yet another rally by EL.

## **FINAL THOUGHTS**

As I mentioned at the beginning of this story, it had been a long, long time since we had felt the “thrill of victory” and that was awesome. Giving EL and ITL a taste of the “agony of defeat” was pretty cool. Using a word that is very common with several of our branches (IEEB, SMB, StEB and SVEB), it was a BLAST. Next year, I hope to be writing about our back-to-back championships!

